

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 07432 241433Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /057 W
-----242046Z 022184 /75

R 241129Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3586
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMCONSUL MADRAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 7432

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IN
SUBJECT: KASHMIR: SHEIKH ABDULLAH THREATENS SECESSION IF
SPECIAL STATUS REMOVED

1. IN A SPEECH IN SRINAGAR MAY 23 TO LAUNCH THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE CAMPAIGN FOR THE STATE ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS, SHEIKH ABDULLAH WARNED THAT KASHMIR WOULD NOT HESITATE TO SECEDE FROM INDIA IF IT WAS NOT ACCORDED A POSITION OF "HONOR AND DIGNITY" WITHIN THE INDIAN UNION. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, ABDULLAH ACKNOWLEDGED THAT KASHMIR WAS A PART OF INDIA ("INDIA IS OURS AND WE ARE INDIA'S."). HE WENT ON TO SAY, HOWEVER, THAT IF ANY EROSION OCCURED IN THE STATE'S INTERNAL AUTONOMY UNDER ARTICLE 370 OF THE CONSTITUTION, "WE SHALL NOT HESITATE TO SECEDE FROM INDIA." THE SHEIKH ALSO ALLEGED THAT BOTH THE CONGRESS AND JANATA PARTIES WANTED TO END KASHMIR'S SPECIAL STATUS AND CLAIMED THAT ONLY THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE COULD DEFEND THE STATE'S SPECIAL POSITION.

2. AT THE SAME TIME, ABDULLAH RELEASED HIS PARTY'S ELECTION
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MANIFESTO WHICH INTER ALIA CALLED FOR CREATING PEACEFUL BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN IN THE INTERESTS OF PEACE AND MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL TRADE RELATIONS. NO DATE HAS YET BEEN SET FOR HOLDING THE ELECTIONS IN J&K, ALTHOUGH DELHI PRESS HAS RECENTLY SPECULATED THAT THEY MIGHT BE HELD IN EARLY JULY.

3. COMMENT: ABDULLAH'S REMARKS ABOUT POSSIBLE SECESSION MUST BE VIEWED IN THE CONTEXT OF CAMPAIGN RHETORIC. HE HAS FIELDER NATIONAL CONFERENCE CANDIDATES FOR 73 OF THE 76 STATE ASSEMBLY SEATS AND MAY FEEL THAT AN APPEAL TO KASHMIRI PARTICULARIST SENTIMENTS IS HIS BEST CAMPAIGN STRATEGY IN THE FACE OF TOUGH COMPETITION FROM THE CONGRESS AND THE JANATA. THERE HAS BEEN NO PUBLIC OFFICIAL NOR UNOFFICIAL REACTION YET FROM DELHI, AND IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER THE GOI WILL BE PREPARED TO SHRUG OFF ABDULLAH'S REMARK AS NOTHING MORE THAN ELECTION BOMBAST.
GOHEEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECESSION, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NEWDE07432
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770185-0434
Format: TEL
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770524/aaaaaufz.tel
Line Count: 73
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: bbb7568b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Date: 28-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
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Subject: KASHMIR: SHEIKH ABDULLAH THREATENS SECESSION IF SPECIAL STATUS REMOVED
TAGS: PINT, IN, (ABDULLAH, SHEIKH)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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